

## Two Ways To Quickly Change The Look Of Your Kitchen



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### Islands And Countertops Add More *Quick Tips For Homeowners*

#### Ready For A New Look In Your Kitchen?

Tired of the same old kitchen? Want to add some new pizzazz at low cost? There are two quick ways to spice up an aging kitchen without spending a ton of money. Both are relatively easy to do without lengthy and involved renovation or extended inconvenience. You can do one or both in a short period of time. Here they are: 1) Change the countertops; or 2) Add an island. In this newsletter we hit the high points of what to consider when looking at these two options. Let's take a look at islands first.



#### Why Add an Island?

One of the major benefits of adding an island is additional workspace.

Obviously you need some floor space to work with. But if your kitchen has a lot of extra floor space, why not turn that into a counter top space as well?

In a really large kitchen you can

approach the island from every direction, which adds more flexibility to your kitchen. In addition, the island can easily be turned into additional storage space with pull-outs, drawers and more. You can never have too much storage space, right? Islands can even be a convenient place to hide the wastebasket.

#### Islands Become the Focus

Another great benefit of islands is the instant creation of an entertainment zone. The island becomes the center of attention and draws everyone to it. Your island can have some informal seating or you may prefer a place where guests can simply stand and enjoy some



snacks. Islands can contain any or none of the normal amenities, like sinks, stove tops, cutting boards and more. They can be simple or elaborate and designed to blend nicely with the rest of

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### A Final Thought on Islands

Another consideration is whether your island portable or fixed. A permanent island can have electricity and appliances installed which is great if you have the space available. But if your kitchen is small you may want to

add a "portable" island. An island on wheels has the flexibility of moving to fit the need. If you have small children around who like to climb, you'll want to be sure that your portable island won't tip.

### Countertops Bring Instant New Look

Nearly overnight, your kitchen can have the look and feel of a brand new kitchen. A complete renovation of cabinets and



appliances is not always necessary. Sometimes, all you really want is a simple change. In today's marketplace there are hundreds of colors, textures and materials to choose from in new countertops. But you have to choose wisely because it all has to work together. Don't be overwhelmed by the choices. Here are a few guidelines to help you get started.



### Solid Surface

Most popular countertops are one of three types. The first is solid surface. Sold under a variety of brand names, they are made from acrylic and polyester blends and come in hundreds of colors. Solid

surface tops are non-porous which makes them difficult to stain and are excellent for food preparation. When installed properly, they are seamless. Cost ranges from \$45 - \$75/sf. Typical warranty: 10 years.

### Engineered Stone

Next, in terms of cost (\$65 - \$85/sf,) is engineered stone. This product looks a lot like solid natural stone; however, because it is manufactured, the look and color will be more consistent than natural. Some folks like this, some don't.



Engineered stone is made from 95% natural stone and 5% synthetic resins to bind it all together. Also non-porous, it is resistant to stains and scratches. The surface is very hard and durable and a typical warranty is 10 years.



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### Natural Stone

If you're a fan of the real thing, the next option is for you: Natural stone. Granite tops used to be rare, but not any more. Costs range from \$75 - \$125/sf. Every slab of granite will look different. So, if

you are particular, you will want to visit the fabricator and choose your slab. Seams may be a little more evident with granite. It requires very little maintenance, but must be well-sealed from the start.

### Other Choices

Beyond those three common choices, many traditional materials are still available. These include ceramic tile (\$3-\$25/sf,) laminates (\$14-\$45/sf,) stainless steel (\$45-\$75/sf,) glass, marble, soapstone and recycled glass. Every surface has pros and cons, so shop carefully and ask questions. In all cases, consider hiring professionals to install them. This protects your warranty with the manufacturers and assures that someone with the correct knowledge and tools will get it done right.



### Need Help Choosing?

Adding an island or changing countertops can be as simple as calling Mike at [Custom Built Design and Remodeling](#). You may be surprised at how affordable it is to make simple changes to your kitchen that give it a whole new look. Call Mike today at 517-881-8971.



**Thank you! We really appreciate your business!**

**Chris & Mike**



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